

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 8-23 are pending in this application. Claims 8-12, 16-18, 22 and 23 stand rejected. Claims 13-15 and 19-21 have been objected to.

Claims 8-10 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi et al U.S. Patent No. 3,761,956.

Claims 11, 12, 16, 17, 22 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Kumon U.S. Patent No. 3,860,838.

Turning first to the rejection of claims 8-10 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi, this reference discloses a sound generating device wherein the outer and inner regions vibrate in an opposite phase. In contrast, according to the present invention, the outer and inner regions vibrate in a mode such that they vibrate in the same phase. This is accomplished by providing a base member for the support member forming a chamber, the disk-like vibration plate closing off one end of the chamber, the chamber being open at an opposite end and wherein the piezoelectric element is coupled to a central region of the disk-like vibration plate inside the chamber to cause the inner and outer regions to vibrate in a resonance mode such that the inner and outer regions vibrate in substantially the same phase.

Takahashi et al. does not disclose or suggest the claimed structure. In particular, Takahashi shows the piezoelectric element on the outside of the vibration plate, not in the chamber. Furthermore, Takahashi fails to teach or suggest the invention as claimed in claim 23 wherein it is claimed that the base member, disk-like vibration plate and support member are of integral construction. This is not disclosed or suggested in Takahashi et al.

Nor is the claimed subject matter disclosed in the Kumon reference which fails to disclose or suggest the claimed integral construction nor does it show the claimed base member for the support member forming a chamber with the disk-like vibration plate closing off one end of the chamber, with the chamber being open at an opposite end.

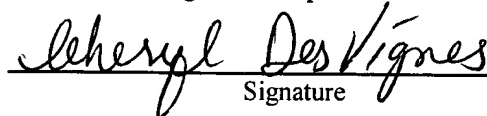
It is submitted that even when the two references are combined, there is no teaching or suggestion of the invention. It is noted that Takahashi et al. is closed at the end opposite the disk-like vibration plate. Further, Kumon does not teach or suggest the integral construction claimed in claim 23 nor the structure claimed wherein the base member for the support member forms a resonance chamber, the disk-like vibration plate closing off the chamber, the chamber being open at an opposite side and wherein the piezoelectric element is coupled to a central region of the disk-like vibration plate inside the chamber to cause the inner and outer regions to vibrate in a resonance mode such that the inner and outer regions vibrate in substantially the same phase.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as Express Mail, Label No. EV343723185US in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 28, 2005:

Cheryl Desvignes

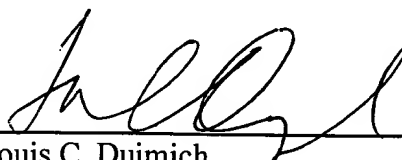
Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative


Signature

April 28, 2005

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



Louis C. Dujmich

Registration No.: 30,625

OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP

1180 Avenue of the Americas

New York, New York 10036-8403

Telephone: (212) 382-0700

LCD/jh